(b) The quantity of coking coal imported during 1995-96 and the average landed cost thereof per tonne is as below :

	Quantity (Million Tonnes)	Average cost per tonne (including freight upto port) (In rupes)
SAIL	5.685	2240.00
VSP	2.575	2401.90
TISCO	0.883	2219.70

(c) The quantity of low ash coal from Assam consumed by the Integrated Steel Plants in 1995-96 and the average cost thereof per tonne is as below :

	Quantity (Million Tonnes)	Average Landed cost per tonne (including freight upto port) (In rupees)
SAIL	0.146	2150.00
VSP	0.020	2076.98
TISCO	0.046	2050.00

(d) and (e) Although Assam Coal is not a subsititute for imported Coking Coal, yet SAIL plants are using Assam Coal as much as possible.

[Translation]

Functioning of Kusinagar Airport in U.P.

4163. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kusinagar airport in Uttar Pradesh is proposed to start functioning during 1997;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to start functioning; and

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the operation of air service from Gorakhpur airport till Kusinagar airport starts functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Kusinagar airport belongs to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Gorakhpur airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence. Airports Authority of India has no plans to upgrade these airports. Airlines are free to operate flights from these airports, keeping in view the traffic potential and economic viability.

[English]

Satellite National Network System for Airports

4164. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to set up a satellite based national network system for airports in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is being implemented on a built operate transfer basis;

(d) whether there are any overseas investors of Indian corporate houses willing to fund this scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which this system is likely to be made fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India is maintaining a vast communication network comprising of land-line tele-printer circuits, direct speech circuits, fax terminal and telex connections at 89 airports. To meet the future technological requirements in the field of aviation, it is proposed to switch over from land-line to satellite based tele-communication network. In the first phase, it is proposed to transfer all direct speech circuits and tele-printer circuits on to this network. In the second phase, network will be enhanced to provide extended direct VHF coverage and inter-connect radars etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The first phase of this network is expected to be operational in 1998.

Construction of Over Bridge

4165. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some requests regarding the construction of foot overbridge at Yerraguntala, allotment of sufficient funds for the construction of new Railway line between Nandyal and Yerraguntala to enable its early completion and non-transfer of Guntakal Railway Division to Bangalore zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) No request has been received for foot over bridge on